

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

2 INTRODUCED BY D. FUCHS, BALES, BITNEY, R. BROWN, BRUEGGEMAN, DALE, DAVIES, DEVLIN,
3 ESP, FACEY, FORRESTER, GOLIE, HIMMELBERGER, L. HOLDEN, JACKSON, LASLOFFY, MASOLO,
4 MCGEE, MOOD, RICE, RIPLEY, ROME, SLITER, SOMERVILLE, STEINBEISSER, B. THOMAS, TRAMELLI,
5 WHITAKER, WOLERY

6
7 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
8 MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REQUIRE STANDARDIZED POLLING HOURS
9 TO SELECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS ~~AND A NATIONAL MEDIA BLACKOUT ON PRESIDENTIAL~~
10 ~~ELECTION RETURNS~~ WHEN A PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION IS HELD.

11
12 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2000, the national media called the presidential election at 7:20 p.m.,
13 Eastern Standard Time, giving Florida and the election to a candidate prior to the polls closing in Florida
14 and 4 hours and 40 minutes prior to the polls closing in California; and

15 WHEREAS, we cannot let the election process and the foundation of our republic form of
16 government be manipulated and diminished by the lack of standardized polling hours and an irresponsible
17 and reckless national media; and

18 WHEREAS, it must be the will of the people, the voter, and the electors that determines the
19 outcome of each election, not the state and federal courts; and

20 WHEREAS, we need not reinvent the wheel, and adoption of these simple changes will not only
21 be effective, but is bipartisan and will restore faith in our election process and our government.

22
23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
24 STATE OF MONTANA:

25 That the United States Congress be strongly urged to pursue federal legislation requiring
26 standardized polling hours for selecting presidential electors ~~and a constitutional amendment providing for~~
27 ~~a media blackout on presidential election returns~~ when a presidential general election is being conducted.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the
29 Montana Congressional Delegation, the major broadcast networks, and the publisher of each newspaper
30 in the state.

31 - END -